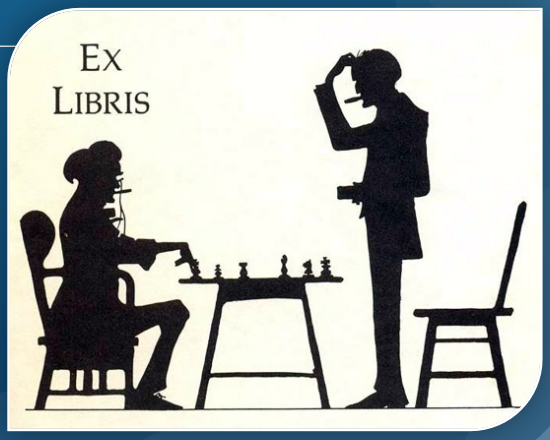
Oklahoma Chess Monthly

MAY 2019

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma



Editor's Note – An abbreviated issue this month, featuring an unusual article on a chess subject that I've never seen covered before. I hope you enjoy it. The remainder of the issue is bare bones with only the results of RRSO and news, but we will have full reports next month.

In This Issue:

- EX LIBRIS: Bookplates for Chess Players
- Book Review by IM John Donaldson
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

EX LIBRIS
Bookplates For Chess Players

by Tom Braunlich

Chess players inevitably collect chess books… stacks and stacks of them. This has been so since the first chess books were produced hundreds of years ago. Every avid player somehow ends up with dozens, if not hundreds. At one point I counted over 400 in my collection. Even those who carry their chess info around in computers nowadays still end up

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Oklahoma Chess Foundation

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with lots of books.

Instruction books, game collections, opening theory, player biographies, puzzle books, etc. … We find them all irresistible, even if we never finish reading them, and soon have enough of a collection to call it a *library*.

Libraries and Bookplates

However, books have not always been as affordable as they are today. Prior to the advances in publishing techniques during the 20th century books were expensive and a luxury. Most families might have had a Bible and a dictionary and little else. If someone had enough books to fill more than one shelf it was considered a "library" and a sign of wealth. People with a personal library — regardless of subject matter — had a large investment in their collection. It was something to be proud of and kept secure.

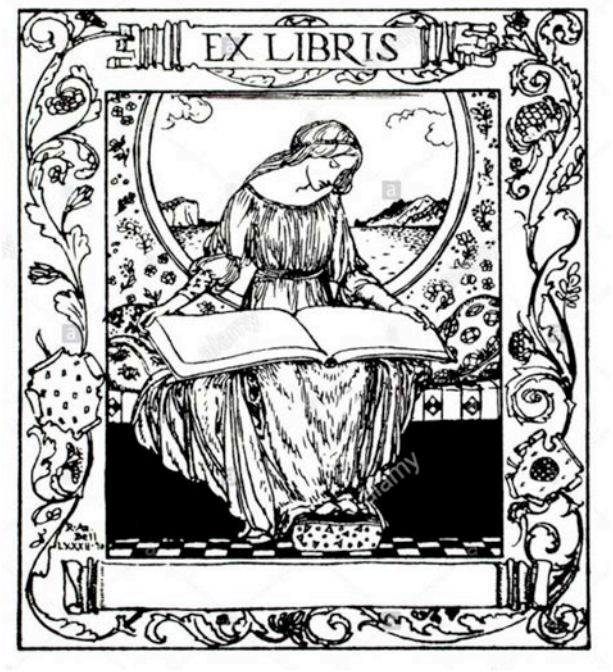
Then, as now, people would often find a need to lend a book from their collection to another person. Today when we lend out a chess book there is perhaps a 50-50 chance we will get it back, and since we don't care too much about it we do little more than write our name on the front page. But in the old days 100+ years ago they absolutely DID want it back, and writing on the front page just wouldn't do because, a) that desecrates the integrity of the book, and b) it lacks the "class" befitting such an important item. (It would be like buying a luxury car and then attaching the license plate to it with duct tape.)

So, the idea of the "Bookplate" was born hundreds of years ago. This is a printed piece of parchment with a beautiful drawing on it that presents the name of the owner of the book, and which is pasted onto the blank front or end page of each book in the owner's library. It was an elegant way of identifying to whose library the book belongs, with the understanding that anyone who finds it elsewhere should return it. These date back to within just a few decades of the invention of the printing press.

By tradition, all bookplates (regardless of their country of origin) featured the Latin phrase

"EX LIBRIS"
which means in Latin
"From the Library of…"

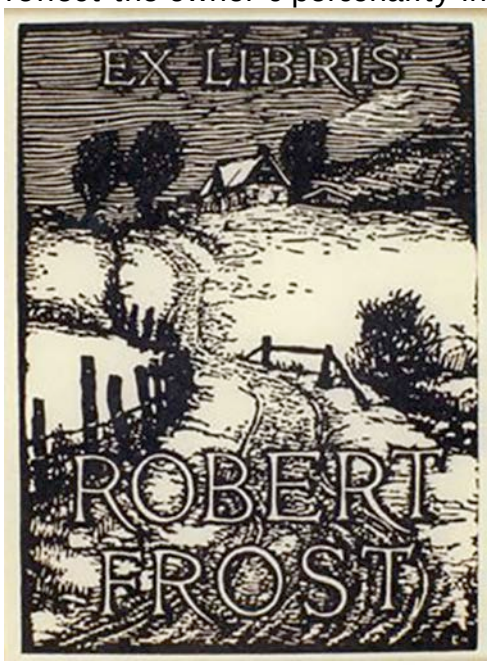
The first bookplates were generic, and the owner would fill in a blank space with his/her own signature. These are still often seen even to this day, as in this basic example:

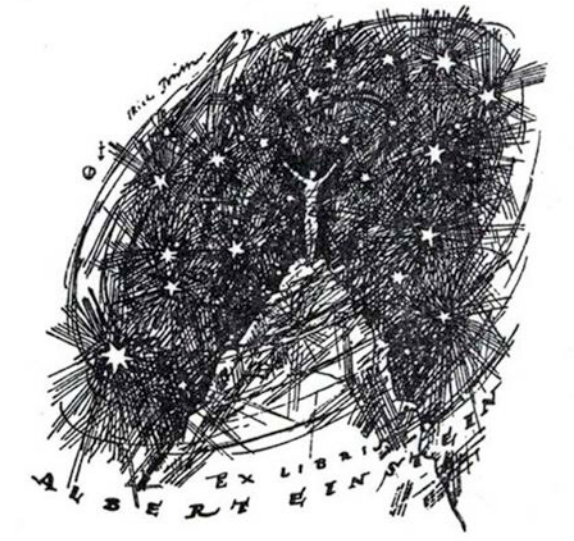


However, soon a basic bookplate wasn't classy enough and upper-class library owners began having custom-made bookplates with personalized designs made, often featuring artistic imagery that related to the owner's special interests. Scientists who collected books on natural history made sure it was reflected in their bookplate design. Others who perhaps collected poetry books or biographies had their own designs as well. Artists made good money creating special bookplate artwork for the libraries of wealthy patrons all over Europe, from England to Russia. Hundreds of thousands of bookplates have been made over

the centuries.

Here are three examples of the bookplates of famous people, poet Robert Frost, scientist Albert Einstein, and author Sir Arthur Conon-Doyle (of *Sherlock Holmes* fame). You can see the artistic diversity and how they reflect the owner's personality in the design:

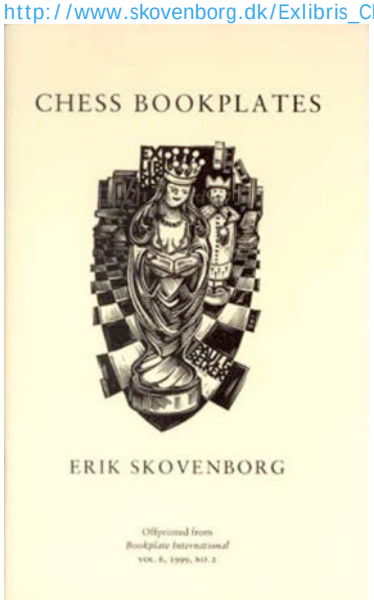




This is where chess comes into the story.

Chess players and collectors who had built up a library soon began designing elaborate chess bookplates. Some date to over 200 years ago. Many are quite beautiful, while others are interesting and recognizable to us because of the name of a famous player.

Erik Skovenborg wrote a treatise on chess-themed bookplates that was printed in 1999 in *Bookplates International*, a collector's publication (yes, there are aficionados who study these things). His home page is here: http://www.skovenborg.dk/Exlibris_ChessExlibris.html



Skovenborg presented 46 examples of chess bookplates. His analysis of them is mainly from the point of view of a bookplate collector and pays attention to dates, identifying the artist, and other various technical details.

But for us chess *players*, it is fascinating to see the names of famous masters who had personal bookplates made for their chess libraries, as well as other clever bookplate artwork made for players and collectors whose names are not widely known.

Some examples given by Skovenborg, as well as many others, can be found now in the public domain on the Internet. Type "Bookplate Images" into a search engine and you will see an amazing artistic array of them. Often the library owner collaborated closely with the artist on the details of the imagery. Here are some of my favorite examples…

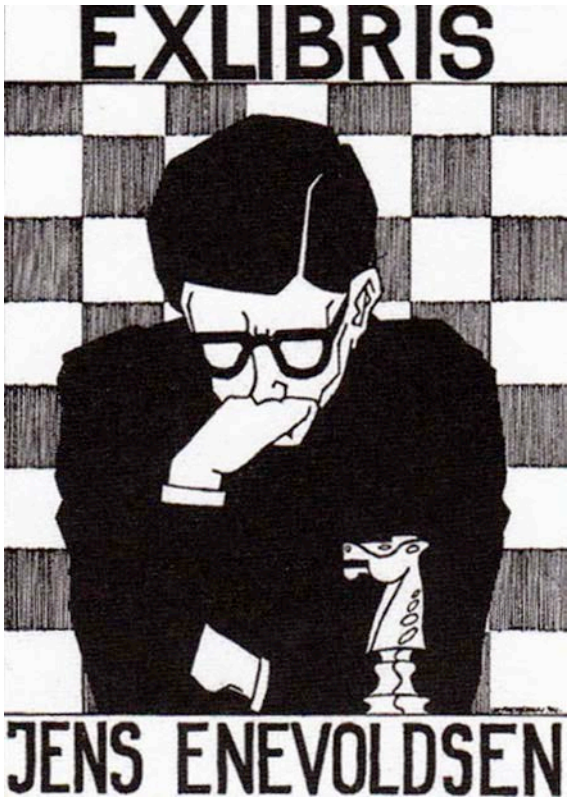
Chess Bookplates for Famous Players

Some famous players I've found who had personalized bookplates made for their chess book collections:

GM Paul Keres

GM Max Euwe

IM Jens Enevoldson



TOP 25

For MAY 2019

	Player	This Month	Change	
	25 Active Oklahoma Players			
1	Advait Patel	2565	1	
2	Howard Zhong	2307	0	
3	Mark Hulsey	2222	0	
4	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
6	Sergey Galant	2188	0	
7	Tom Patton	2108	0	
8	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2107	0	
9	Adonis Turner	2084	0	
10	John Cope	2084	0	
11	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
12	Charles D Unruh	2072	0	
13	Veronika Zilajeva	2072	0	
14	Chuck Johnson	2048	0	
15	David Luscomb	2045	0	
16	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
17	Matt Dalthorp	2039	0	
18	James Long	2039	0	
19	Charles M Unruh	2033	0	
20	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
21	Ryan Amburgy	2005	12	
22	Logan Zachare	1986	0	
23	Joe Dean Veal	1965	0	
24	Neil Naputo Sr	1956	0	
25	Wayne Hatcher	1950	0	

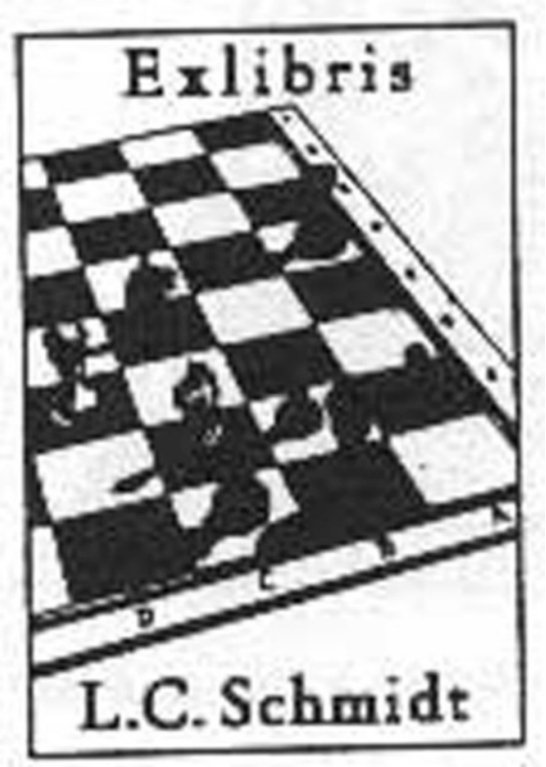
Player of the Month

IM JOHN DONALDSON

The honorary Okie will be playing in the Frank Berry Memorial May 18-19, and will give a lecture the night before. See page 11.

GM Mikhail Tal

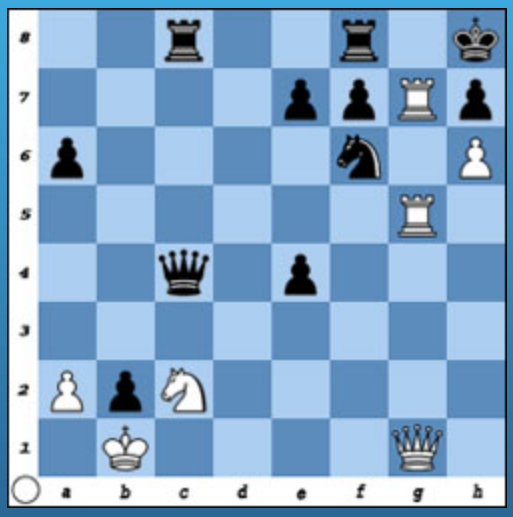
GM Lothar Schmidt



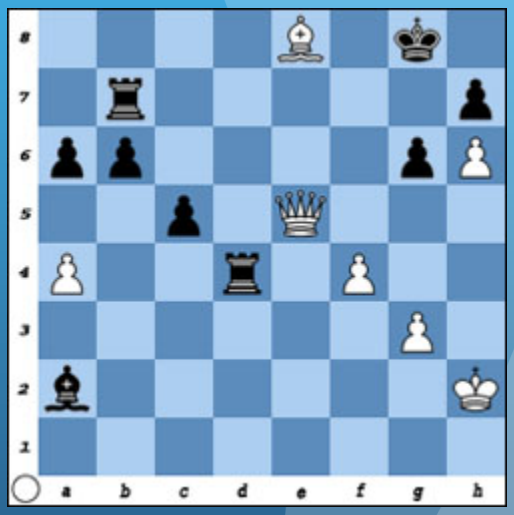
IM Edward Lasker (This is one of my favorites — see image next page.)

PUZZLES

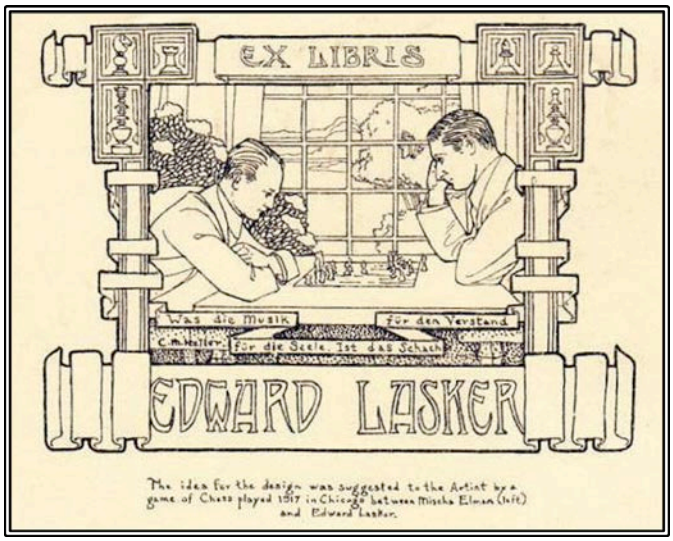
Answers Next Page



White to move and win. (Medium)



White to move and win. (Medium)


EX LIBRIS
Was die Musik
für den Verstand
für die Seele. Ist das Schach
EDWARD LASKER
The idea for the design was suggested to the Artist by a game of Chess played 1917 in Chicago between Mischa Elman (left) and Edward Lasker.

Chess Bookplates from Collectors

Here are some examples of bookplates made for influential collectors of chess sets and chess books, etc. Those of you who dabble in chess collecting may recognize some of these names. But what I thought was most interesting was the wide variety of artistic styles for the bookplates they designed…

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) Black is sufficiently defending the g8 square so there is no mate there, but his g7 is vulnerable. If White can get his Q to g7 he mates, and to do this he has to get the two rooks out of the way – and must do so with tempo as Black threatens mate himself. The solution is 1. Rc5!! (getting one rook out of the way while interfering with Black's mate threat on the c-file), 1…Rxc5 2. Rxh7+! (again clearing the g-file for White's Q) 2…Nxh7 3. Qg7 mate.

(2) This is from the game Ding Liren – Jakovenko, played this month. White is down material but he has big threats against Black's king. As in the first puzzle, he needs to clear a piece out of the way (the bishop) so that he can bring his Q to e8 to deliver mate on the back rank. As in #1, the B move needs to be done with tempo, but moving it to c6 isn't good enough because black replies …Rf7 and is safe. The solution therefore is to block this defense by playing 1. Bd7! Clearing e8 and preventing …Rf7. Black resigned.

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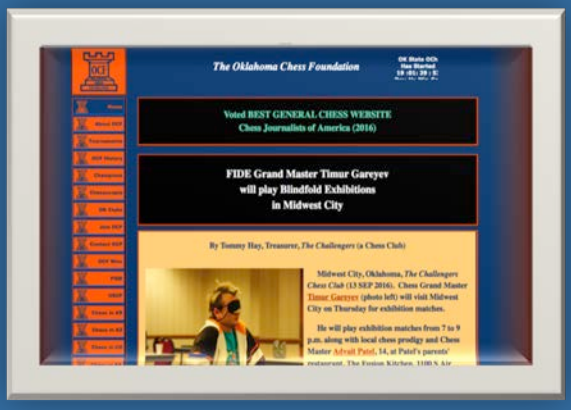
The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)

Actively Managed by Jim Hollingsworth
Our Intrepid Texican Volunteer

Get
OCF Member Content like the OCM
Plus

- ✓ Breaking News
- ✓ Archived Chess Information
- ✓ Useful Chess Links

… and more

Do you have a nice chess book collection? If so, you might enjoy making your own personalized chess bookplate design.

Here is how to do it.

First, create your own chess-themed bookplate artwork incorporating the phrase "Ex Libris" and your name. It should be sized to be roughly 3x3 inches, or small enough to fit on most books. You may need to enlist the artwork services of a friend or student, or even pay a professional artist to make what you want.

Second, take it down to a print shop and have it printed on nice acid-free parchment-style paper. Ideally, you could fit four bookplates on one 8½x11 sheet of parchment. Cut them out.

At a hobby supply store like Hobby Lobby or online buy acid-free glue stick (or acid-free double-sided tape) and apply each bookplate into the book to adorn them with your personalized Ex Libris artwork.

(Alternatively you can print them on Avery label sheets of appropriate size, allowing you to easily peel and stick them into your books).

When you are done, you will have a stylish addition to your voluminous collection and turn your miscellaneous of chess books into an actual library!

Red River Shootout #17
Won by Oklahoma: 24-22

By Victor Yaward, Chess Reporter

(Davis, Oklahoma, April 27) — With the score 23-21 in the waning moments, (and a 23-23 tie enabling Texas to tie the match still a possibility, allowing them to retain their bragging rights), Shaun Graham-Bowcaster came through for the Okies to score the 24th point to clinch RRSO XVII. Final score 24-22. This was Phil Stegall's first victory as Oklahoma Team Captain.

Oklahoma led from the start and built a commanding 21 to 10 lead midway through the second half. However, the Texans would not quit and closed to 23 to 21 with only two games remaining. Shaun Graham-Bowcaster's win ensured the victory.

46 total players participated, each playing a two-game mini-match, and every move counted. Chief Organizer Jim Hollingsworth and the RRSO recruiting staff did an outstanding job building this year's match, recruiting players, and balancing the lineups for fairness.

After the Victory Dinner, the team of Austen Green and and Logan Zachare scored a 5-0 sweep of the Bug House tournament.

Next year's Red River Shoot Out, the 18th in the series, is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020 in Davis, Oklahoma. A special tax-free "chess rate" is being negotiated with the hotel with a Texas Hold 'em tournament on Friday night. Recruiting Season starts January 15th. Details will be on the Oklahoma Chess Foundation's and RRSOCHESS websites.

Jim Hollingsworth (TX) and Tom Nichols (OK) started the RRSO back in 2003.

<u>Editor Note:</u> Even though this event is always billed as "the annual team match between the most fanatical players in Oklahoma and Texas" it has become one of the most fun events on the yearly calendar.

There will be a full report with games and photos in the next issue.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

May 17 — IM John Donaldson Lecture — Tulsa OK

Donaldson is many-time captain of the U.S. Chess Olympic Team and will discuss those adventures, with Q&A. 6:30pm. Harvard Ave Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. Free admission. He will stay to play in the FKB Memorial…

May 18-19 — 3rd FRANK K BERRY MEMORIAL — Okmulgee OK

5-SS, G/90+30. OSU Institute of Technology, Student Union, Okmulgee OK. Hotel Nearby: Holiday Inn Express, 2780 N. Wood, (918)765-0100. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). EF: $45 if mailed by 5/14, $50 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). Prizes $$2400(1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/56 paid entries) Open: $800(G)-250, X: 200, A: 200. Reserve (U1800): $250(G) C: 200 D: 150, Novice (U1200): $200(G), 1000/below: $150. Registration: 9-9:45am Sat 5/18. Byes: One ½-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Entries to: Tom Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch, Broken Arrow, OK 74011. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org Info when available at: www.uschess.org/tlas

May 24-27 — TEXAS STATE AND AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP — Fort Worth TX

7-SS. Top section is FIDE rated, open to 2000/above. Amateur Section open to 2000/below. Prizes: $8,350(G). info@dallaschess.com, www.dallaschess.com.

June 29-30 — OCA 74th Annual OKLAHOMA OPEN — Tulsa OK

5-SS Trade Winds Central, 3141 E. Skelly Dr., (I-44, Exit 228) Tulsa, OK 74105, (918) 749-5561. 3 Sections: Open G$$ 500-300-200; Reserve (U1600) G$$ 250-150-100; Booster (U1000) $$ b/entries; Plaques & USCF recognized State Championship titles for OK resident section winners, including Top Senior (age 50+), in Open Section. EF: $45 if received by 6/24, otherwise $50, Booster Section $35, OCA membership included. Reg.: 8:30-9:30am Saturday. One 1/2 point bye in Rds. 1-4 only. Rds.: Sat 10-2-6; Sun 10 & 3. Contact: Charles Unruh, PO Box 340, Collinsville, OK 74021, 918-698-2308, georuh@gmail.com. More Info: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php?STATE=OK

July 13-14 — 51st Annual JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL — Oklahoma City OK

5-SS, G/90;+30. Site: Residence Inn of OKC (North-Quail Springs) 13900 McAuley Blvd., OKC. (2 miles West of Quail Springs Mall on Memorial Road at Meridian Street). Reservation Discount Link here.
Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). EF: $40 if mailed by 5/14, $50 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). Prizes $$2250 (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/56 paid entries) Open: $600(G)-250, X: 200, A: 200. Reserve (U1800): $250(G) C: 200 D: 200, Novice (U1200): $200(G), 1000/below: $150. Registration: 9-9:45am Sat 5/18. Byes: One ½-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Entries to: Tom Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch, Broken Arrow, 74011. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org

July 19-21 — KANSAS OPEN — Wichita KS

5-SS. G/120;d5. Holiday Inn, 549 S. Rock Rd., Wichita KS. Three sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Amateur (U1400). EF: $50 if mailed by 7/13, $60 thereafter. Includes Blitz Tournament Friday night, 5-round double swiss, Game/5;d0. Details will be available at: http://www.kansaschess.org

Aug 17 / Aug 24 — STEVE WHARRY "ConSat" CLASSIC — Tulsa OK

4-SS with two traditional G/90+30 games played on each of two Consecutive Saturdays. Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). Prizes (b/30): Open: 1st-$200, X: $100, A: $100. Reserve: 1st-$125, C: $100, D: $100. Novice: 1st $125. U1000/UNR: $100. More if entries allow. REG: Each day, 9:00-10:15am. Rounds: 10:30am – 3:00pm each day. BYES: Two ½-point byes for either day if you can't make it to one of the game days. Entry Fee: $30 for both days, $20 per day if you can only play one day. Adv. Entries via PayPal: www.paypal.me/Braunlich Adv. Entries by Mail: T.Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch Ave, B.A. OK 74011. Info: tom.braunlich@cox.net LS W. Free coffee and refreshments.

"Remember: Not all Trappers wear fur hats."

–Frank K. Berry

May 18-19 **Okmulgee, OK**

3rd Annual **Frank K Berry Memorial**

5-SS, G/90+30.
OSU Institute of Technology,
Student Union (Harlan Rm), 1801 E. 4th St, Okmulgee, OK 74447.
Hotel Nearby: Holiday Inn Express, 2780 N. Wood, (918)765-0100.

Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), **Novice** (U1200).

EF: $45 if mailed by 5/14, $50 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings).

Prizes $$2400 (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/56 paid entries)

Open: 1st $800(G), 2nd $250, X: 200, A: 200.

Reserve (U1800): 1st $250(G) C: 200 D: 150,

Novice (U1200): 1st $200(G), 1000/below: $150.

Registration: Sat 9-9:45am.

Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15.

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Entries to: Tom Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch, Broken Arrow, OK 74011.

Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net **Web:** www.ocfchess.org

International Master

JOHN DONALDSON

Lecture: Friday, May 17, 6:30pm

Harvard Ave Baptist Church,
3235 E. 17th St., Tulsa OK

Donaldson is the many-time captain of the U.S.A. Chess Olympic Team and will discuss those adventures, with Q&A.
Free admission. He will stay to play in the FKB Memorial...

The Laughing Knight

I just can't shake this feeling everyone's out to get me!

By IM John Donaldson

Lasker: Move by Move

by Zenón Franco
Everyman Chess 2018
www.everymanchess.com
448 pages, $29.95

The historical view of Emanuel Lasker has changed dramatically since Bobby Fischer left him off his list of the ten greatest players of all time. Today his qualities as a universal player are better-appreciated and frequent comparisons made to Magnus Carlsen, both being skilled in all facets of the game.

For many years English language readers had to be content with Hannak's biography and game collection and Fine and Reinfeld's *Lasker's Greatest Chess Games, 1889-1914* - the latter covering only a portion of his career. This situation persisted for many years until Andrew Soltis wrote his groundbreaking *Does Lasker Matter* in 2006 which did much to encourage a reappraisal of the second world champion. The follow-up *John Nunn's Chess Course*, using the games of Lasker as teaching material, was also well received. Now we have another work devoted to the longest reigning world champion (almost 27 years).

Lasker: Move by Move by Zenón Franco does justice to the great champion. Using the move-by-move format, which encourages active learning through questions and exercises, the Paraguayan grandmaster covers all aspects of the game. This is a well-researched book with Franco referencing and adding to Soltis and Nunn's work with the result that the annotations are more detailed than usual for books in the Move by Move series.

This is an attractively produced and fairly priced book that is available in both print and electronic formats.

Recommended for players from 1800 to 2400.

Pictured: A young Lasker (right) playing Steinitz in their world championship match.

STEINITZ
LASKER
MONTRÉAL.—LE GRAND TOURNOI D'ÉCHECS, AU COSMOFOLITAN CLUB, POUR LE CHAMPIONNAT DU MONDE
Vue prise pendant une séance, à 8 heures du soir.—(Photograj hie Cummings, et photogravure Armstrong)